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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

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Justice (Vol. 12, Iss. 5)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

Comments

Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

"My righteous-
ness I hold fast,
and will not let
it go."
—Job 27:5

JUSTICE

"Workers
of the world
unite! You
have nothing to
lose but your
chains."

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Vol. XII. No. 5

JERSEY CITY, N. J., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1930

PRICE 3 CENTS

Current Comment On Timely Topics

About thirty thousand workers took part in the recent strike of the dressmakers. This was the first time in the history of the International that so many dressmakers participated in a strike. In the waist and dressmakers' strike of 1919 which lasted eleven weeks, nineteen thousand workers walked out; in the dress strike of 1923 only seventeen thousand.

In 1919 our labor movement did not yet know of a Communist Party, of Communist gutter-sheets, and of Communist scabs; nevertheless, of the thirty thousand workers then employed in the waist and dress industry, we could only get nineteen thousand to quit work. Only dreamers, accordingly, could have expected that in 1930, when the Communist Party is so "firmly" rooted in America; when Union Square is known as "Red Square;" when a single cafeteria yields the Communist Party sixty-five thousand dollars profit a year; when the co-operative houses, now in the hands of a receiver, which the Communist Party has erected in the Bronx, are worth as much as the government buildings in Minsk and Moscow put together; when the brazen voice of Communism causes the very welkin to ring.—I say that only a dreamer could have expected that in 1930 some thirty thousand workers, out of a total of slightly over thirty-five thousand employed in the trade, would respond to the call for a strike.

What does this prove? It proves not only that barking dogs don't bite, but that people do not even take notice of dogs that only bark.

Among the thirty thousand workers who joined in the dress strike there were at least twenty thousand women, and among the latter there were at least fifteen thousand who went through a strike for the first time in their lives. The strike no doubt awakened in them a sense of sympathy and solidarity with the other workers in the trade. The strike no doubt made them realize what a beautiful and glorious thing a union is and how great is the power of the workers when they are all united. But the strike lasted only a few days and it is quite possible that now that they have returned to the shops, this impression will gradually fade away.

It is therefore the duty of every dressmaker who has gone through more than one strike, and who knows from before the significance of a union, to help us in the effort to convert these fifteen thousand recruits into good unionists. If

Concerning the Dressmakers' Strike and Other Matters

By BENJAMIN SCHLESINGER

these fifteen thousand women workers can be made to realize how essential unions are to the working people, if we succeed in making loyal union members of them, every worker in the trade will make a more comfortable living and there will really be an end to sweatshops.

We are going through hard times. The U. S. Department of Labor reports that approximately three million persons are now out of work in this country. During the winter months the number of unemployed workers in the building trades is always large, but it is years since the slack season in the building trades was as bad as this winter. An economic survey shows that the steel and railroad industries employ no fewer workers this year than last year, but the same survey establishes that in such enormous industries as automobiles, radios, furniture, and textiles, unemployment is far greater now than a year ago.

In our industry, too, the situation is a great deal worse now than at any time in the last few years. It is already March and yet, with the exception of a few shops, our cloakmakers are still not working full time. How long will the present depression continue?

In the opinion of the foremost industrial experts in the country, as well as of the biggest businessmen and bankers, it will not take long before times will be normal again.

This is not the first time America passes through an economic crisis, and it will weather it as it weathered the previous ones.

It is hard to build when times are hard. On the other hand, it is easy to destroy at such times. One needs no brains to destroy. Any idiot can strike

you with an axe. Any moron can shoot you with a revolver.

Times are not so good now, but they are bound to get better. Guard your unions. It is very easy to hurt them when times are bad. Beware of scabs who would do them harm, whether the scabs are Communists or some other rascals.

Hard times are bad for some and good for others. For the Communist charlatans the present bad winter is one of rich harvest. This winter their begging activities are double what they were last winter. Naturally, the number of Communists who are this winter making their living by these begging activities has also grown double. No fewer than twelve hundred Communists are making a comfortable living in New York by passing the Communist hat around.

Demonstrations of unemployed workers, Communist strikes, vociferous meetings,—the Communists are busy on all fronts. Verily, hard times are bad for some and good for others.

Demonstrations of the unemployed.—About thirty-seven years ago there was a panic in this country and large numbers of wage workers were idle for months. A certain Coxey, of Ohio, then got together a few hundred jobless men, organized them into an "army," and marched with them to Washington. "General" Coxey wanted to rouse the whole country to the plight of the unemployed and to the need of helping them, and so he led several hundred jobless workers to the National Capital.

The Communists lead their unemployed no farther than City Hall. They are satisfied if they disturb the slumbers of the handful of policemen who are stationed at City Hall.

FELICITATIONS FROM BROTHER BAROFF

Upon learning of the victorious outcome of the general strike of the New York dressmakers, Brother Abraham Baroff, former Secretary-Treasurer of the International, and one of the veterans of our Union who is now recuperating on a farm, sent the following message of congratulation to President Benjamin Schlesinger:

February 17, 1930.

One of the greatest joys of my life was to hear of the successful response of the dressmakers to the call of our I. L. G. W. U. to reestablish our International Union, and afterwards I was happy to hear of the successful termination of the strike. If not for my doctor's orders, I would have in person congratulated you and the tens of thousands of dressmakers on their glorious victory. This means that our International will again be strong and influential in defending the rights of our members and in advancing the conditions under which they work and live. Finally it will banish the sweatshop from our industry forever. May I ask you therefore to convey my greetings and best wishes to the victorious strikers, and to the International Union as a whole. I am sure I join the thousands of our members who rejoice in the rehabilitation of our union which will again become a great moral force in the labor movement and in the community.

ABRAHAM BAROFF.

Communist strikes. — The Communist Party decided to stage a general strike of cloakmakers in Boston. Before carrying out the decision of the party, its commissars kept on trumpeting for weeks in their gutter-sheets that they were going to destroy the International in Boston. And so you probably want to know how many cloakmakers responded to their general strike call.

Twenty-seven! And this number already includes six old-time Bostonian scabs, among them the notorious drunkard Sharkevitch.

A general strike of twenty-seven cloakmakers! Why, it's to laugh! But the Communists see nothing funny in that. Indeed, from their point of view, this is anything but a laughing matter.

So you, too, did not see the mass demonstration of needle workers which the Communist Party staged last Tuesday in the garment center?

Well, you are not the only one who did not see that vast demonstration. Indeed, that demonstration was intended to be seen not in New York, but in Moscow.

As far as we have been able to learn, that demonstration took place not in the garment center, but at a table at the bankrupt Communist cafeteria on Union Square.

A number of years ago the Jewish daily "Forward" had a reporter named Max Goldfarb. Following the Russian Revolution of 1917, Goldfarb left this country and went to Moscow, where Trotsky, who was then Minister of War, appointed him head of all military academies in Russia. He now called himself General Petrovsky, and only a few persons in this country knew that General Petrovsky was none other than Max Goldfarb, whilom writer on the "Forward."

Since then a good deal of water has passed under the mill. Trotsky ceased to be Minister of War, and Petrovsky ceased to be a general. Trotsky was exiled to Turkey, but not so Petrovsky. Petrovsky is the kind of fellow who can trim his sail to any wind. He soon ingratiated himself with his new boss and so he is all right.

Do you know where Petrovsky is today? Right here in New York. Those who have seen him say that he looks very good and is in the pink of health. He came to this country ostensibly to help in the affairs of the Amtorg. But now that he is here, he is also doing other kinds of "relief" work. It is said that the begging articles which daily ap-

(Continued on page 2)

The Communist Fiasco in Boston

Only 200 Out of Boston's 4,000 Garment Workers Respond to Their "Strike" Call—Vice President Amdur Ridicules Reds' Pretensions—Secretary-Treasurer Dubinsky Arrives on Scene and Takes Charge of Situation

(Special to Justice)

BOSTON.—Driven desperate by the fiasco resulting from the Communist "strike" in Boston's cloak and dress trades, to which only 200 out of the 4,000 workers employed in the ladies' garment industry of this city responded, the Communists ordered their picket lines augmented on Monday, February 24, with motley recruits not even remotely connected with the women's wear industry.

To hide the true picture of the situation, Ben Gold, Louis Hyman and other Communists imported from New York, resorted to an order making it imperatively incumbent on all Communists, regardless of craft or calling, to join in the picket line in order to make it impressive.

Poor Communists! They might have saved themselves a great deal of trouble. For the picket demonstration, like the "strike" it was to bolster up, proved a miserable failure. Not more than a hundred men and women, many of them not even ladies' garment workers, turned out for the demonstration.

As Shakespeare would have said, "What a flop was there, my countrymen!"

Commenting upon the Communists' latest failure, Vice President Max Amdur of the International, declared:

"The Communists realize that they must make up their lack of numbers by making a good deal of noise. Therefore they order a number of their misguided, hysterical women and girls to make a scene in the garment section and to get themselves arrested. They know that traffic conditions in the four blocks bounding the district are overtaxed and that the slightest demonstration will make for confusion and attract a host of curiosity seekers."

"But all the demonstrating in the streets has not prevented the bona fide union workers, laboring under union conditions, from attending their places of employment. The Communists are trying to play a desperate card to belaud the legitimate efforts of the International Union, which is negotiating with the employers for substantial improvements in the conditions of the workers and in the industry generally."

The following day, Tuesday, David Dubinsky, General Secretary-Treasurer of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, arrived in Bos-

ton from New York to "expose the Communist adventure in the Boston needle trades."

Laden with comprehensive data concerning similar Communist activity in other cities, which has cost workers untold millions in loss of wages, demoralized one of the country's leading industries and has wrecked union institutions laboriously built up by years of sacrifice and toil on the part of loyal trades unionists, Brother Dubinsky addressed a mass meeting of garment workers during the week at which he dilated on the purposes of the Communist group which has been responsible for the abortive demonstrations in the local garment area.

As Treasurer of the International Union, Brother Dubinsky has had access to what he describes "as the most damning documents, checks, papers, etc., which point to the criminal conduct of strikes and pseudo-strikes by Communists at the behest of Moscow and the Red Internationale." He charges graft, corruption and bribery to the Communists who have been so completely discredited that they have been ousted from those needle unions where they were in control in 1926 and have been forced to set up dual groups in order "to continue to dupe their adherents."

Brother Dubinsky, while here, will lead the International Union's negotiations with local employers in a last minute effort to avert a general strike of 4,000 cloak and dressmakers employed in Boston.

In these negotiations the Union will demand the 40-hour five-day week, an increase in wages, and the abolition of sweatshop conditions.

The Union Health Center Achieves Legal Status

Much of the Credit for This Is Due to President Schlesinger

By PAULINE M. NEWMAN

Our Affiliated Unions, the trade union movement in general, and the International Ladies Garment Workers' in particular, all have reason to be glad over the victory which has been achieved in the securing of a charter for the Union Health Center, thus giving it legitimate and legal status. To Bro. Ben Schlesinger, President of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union, belongs the credit for this achievement. Despite his ill health, his busy and long days, he still found time to put the finishing touches to a rather complicated, long, drawn-out attempt to secure a charter for this institution. But, Bro. Schlesinger, when he recognizes the justice of a demand—he it a demand upon an employer or a government agency—will not give up until his efforts are rewarded by success. When all those who have been giving their time and thought to the task of securing a charter, felt a bit discouraged, Bro. Schlesinger stepped in and merely asked, "What do you mean you can't get a charter? We are entitled to it, are we not?" The answer to this question is a letter from our attorney to the effect that a charter has

been granted to the Union Health Center.

The advantages of having a charter for an institution like the Union Health Center are many. No one need ask any longer as to whether or not we have a right to exist—since we exist only for the wage-earners. In the granting of the charter to the Health Center, owned and controlled by the trade unions of New York, the trade unions have been given the legal right to run its own health institution—an achievement of which every friend of U. H. C. will be proud of.

All Locals Ratify Convention Tax

The recent appeal of President Schlesinger and Secretary-Treasurer Dubinsky urging the local unions of the International throughout the country to call early meetings for the purpose of ratifying the special tax of ten dollars per member voted by the Cleveland Convention, has met with 100 percent response. Brother Dubinsky has received replies from all the locals, every one of which reports that it has ratified the tax almost unanimously.

Current Comment On Timely Topics

(Continued from page 1)

pear in the "Freiheit" are written, not by Primadonna Olgin, but by General Petrovsky. It is also said that during the few months he is going to spend in this country he will help Bill Foster carry on his mud-slinging propaganda against the trade unions.

If Olgin, for example, had received a despatch from Senator Borah, he would not even have troubled to read it. True Communists don't give a damn for bourgeois scamps like Senator Borah.

Possibly, if Maxim Litvinoff had been in New York and living off the alms which the Communists are always begging, he would also not have given a damn for Senator Borah. It happens, however, that Litvinoff is not in New York, but in Russia, and Russia is just now making frantic

efforts to please the American government.

Accordingly, when Senator Borah, at the request of a number of Jewish public men, sent a cablegram to Litvinoff and inquired whether it was true, as reported, that the Soviet authorities were going to execute fourteen rabbis in Minsk, Litvinoff got scared and replied at once:

"No, Little Father Borah. It is not true. Some one has been libeling us. Of the fourteen rabbis arrested in Minsk, eleven have already been set free."

How about it, Comrade Olgin? Isn't Comrade Maxim Litvinoff a scamp?

Litvinoff does not say what the Soviet authorities in Minsk intend to do with the other rabbis, but there is not ground for fear. It is certain that the three will also be released and that no harm whatever will be done to them.

Cleveland Court Issues Injunction Against Our Union

The open shop manufacturers of Cleveland have at last scored their inning. They have secured an injunction which virtually forbids the Cleveland Cloak and Dressmakers' Union to picket their shops.

On February 24, according to word reaching us from Cleveland, Judge R. L. Goudy, of Xenia, who is now sitting in Cleveland, granted the petition of eight open shop manufacturers and issued a temporary injunction against the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union forbidding it to molest or interfere with the workers employed in the open shops. The court will later set the date for a hearing on the question of issuing a permanent injunction.

About six weeks ago, following a general strike which the International called in Cleveland, an agreement was entered into with most of the manufacturers. But a handful of die-hard open shop manufacturers refused to settle with the Union, and so the Union continued its fight against them. Feeling the pinch of the Union's campaign against them, these die-hards have now retaliated by enjoining the Union on the alleged ground that their scabbing employees had been waylaid and beaten up by union workers, and that the windows in their homes had been smashed.

It goes without saying that the charge of these sweatshop manufacturers is false. And it goes equally without saying that no injunction will stop our Union from carrying on its campaign against the sweatshop and for sanitary conditions in the shop, a living wage, and American standards of living for the ladies' garment workers of Cleveland and of the whole country.

Mary Hillyer Addresses Colored Dressmakers

By FLORIA PINKNEY

Mary Hillyer, organizer for local 38, gave an interesting talk to a group of Colored workers of Local 22, on the subject of "What do we want from the Union" on Tuesday evening, February 25. Miss Hillyer said that one, and the first thing that we all should want is for our union to be strong and powerful; and that only the workers in the industry could bring it about, that an agreement was no good unless each worker took his or her share of the responsibility of enforcing it. No worker should make an excuse for not doing her part by blaming someone else. Miss Hillyer also said how important it was that each worker should be active in their locals and attend meetings.

Workers from 6 shops were present. Next Monday Margaret DiMaggio will talk to this group at the Urban League Building, 203 W. 136 St. All members of the Union are invited.

Schlesinger Goes To Montreal

Following the recent successful strike of the cloakmakers in Toronto, the International turned its attention to Montreal and is now endeavoring to organize the cloak trade of that city also.

To this end President Benjamin Schlesinger left last Tuesday for Montreal. While there he conferred with the local cloakmakers in an effort to win for the cloakmakers of Montreal by peaceful negotiations what their brothers in Toronto have won by their strike. He also addressed a mass meeting of cloakmakers on Thursday.

Workers of Shapiro & Sons Strike

On Wednesday, February 26, the workers employed at the shop of Shapiro & Sons went out on strike. This is a reefer-shop and at one time had about sixty machines. During the Communist plague in our Union, the shop became utterly demoralized and of late the head of the firm went beyond all limits in his insolence toward his employees. Boss Shapiro went so far as to tell his workers that they must work hard until they collapse and have to be taken to the hospital in an ambulance. It also became known that the firm, besides shameful mistreating its employees, also gives out work to non-union shops. Accordingly the workers went out on strike.

The Joint Board has approved of the strike, and the shop of Shapiro & Sons is being picketed. All union workers are warned not to work for Shapiro & Sons until the firm settles with the Union.

News and Events in Local 38

By BORIS DRASIN, Manager

Not much is found in Justice pertaining to the activities of our Local 38. It is but natural. Ours is a small trade in comparison with the "cloak" or wholesale dress trade that embraces tens of thousands of workers. They have more and further-reaching problems to wrestle with, hence there is more talk about them and more written material. I feel, however, that we, in our local, are doing our good share and that we hold the banner of our Union as high as those mentioned that represent a much larger membership.

During the last four or five years, many needle trade unions suffered on account of a gradual decline in business and inner struggles amongst the different factions in our Union. The Communist demagogues are chiefly to be blamed for the weakening of our trade organizations. The Communists proved to be a great help to the employers in our industry in destroying the conditions won through unusually great and unceasing efforts on the part of the active and loyal trade unionists among the workers and leaders in our trade for many years.

President Lincoln once said, "You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time." I believe that this applies exactly to the activities of the Communists in our ranks. The time came when a great majority of our workers realized the danger of supporting the Communists in their efforts to capture the Unions and make it a tool in the hands of the Communist Party. Once this was realized, the workers withdrew their support and, as a result, the Communist group and their unions fell to pieces. The International, through its practical leaders, issued its call in due time calling upon the workers to band themselves together again under the banner of the old and well tried International Union. The workers responded and now our historical period of reconstruction is well under way. The Union is fast regaining its power and influence in the industry, commanding again the respect and appreciation not only of its membership, but of organized labor all over this country—in fact, of organized labor all over the world.

Now what part did Local 38 play in helping to raise our International Union to its present heights?

As a local of the International, we did our share. During all the time of inner strife and suffering, the so-called "lefts" in our local tried their best to destroy or capture our local union, too. They succeeded in gaining

control over it for a short time, but they could not destroy it. The loyal and true unionists among us succeeded in opening the eyes of the majority of our members and so did not let the "lefts" stay long enough in office and mismanage the affairs of our local. The local soon was again in the hands of its honest and practical workers. As a result of this, our local not only succeeded in preserving union conditions but even in improving them to a great extent.

It can be stated that our local has an agreement with employers in the trade far superior to the one existing between other local unions and their respective employers in the trade. The same is true of the conditions of work in the shop and the control exercised by our local union.

There is, for instance, no discharge allowed unless the employer can prove to the satisfaction of the Union or the Impartial Chairman that the facts presented warrant such discharge. Just recently, a test was made by one of our employers who refused to accept a worker who due to illness had been out of the shop for about seven months. The firm claimed that they were not in need of any more workers at the time and also based their stand on one of the clauses of the agreement. The case was tried by Dr. Henry Moscovitz. The writer and our Union lawyer, Mr. Morris Rothenberg, proved to the satisfaction of the Umpire that there were other clauses in the agreement that denied the employer the right to discharge the worker in question and so the Union won the case. Another recent case was where none of our employers refused to pay his workers for a half-day when the house closed the shop on a day before a holiday. Upon adjustment of this case, the writer, taking his stand on the provisions of our agreement in such instances, was able to compel the employer to pay the workers for their loss of time.

My contention about the qualifications of our agreement can be proven with other examples. I can't, however, make this article too long without taking up too much space in our magazine. However, the statement made above must not be misconstrued. Our conditions are far from perfect; also, there is need of improving our agreements with the employers. In another few months our membership will be given the opportunity to shape their new demands that will be presented to the employers when our agreement calls for it. But in order to gain better conditions of work, we must show ever greater devotion and loyalty towards our Union and more harmony and unity within our local. There will soon be a chance for our members to show it. In another few weeks our local elections for paid and unpaid officers for the next yearly term will take place. To be more exact, our elections will be held on Friday, March 7 from 12 noon to 8 p. m.

Unusual activity has been launched by the present administration to enroll as members of our Union all those not organized yet in our trade. This work must be continued. Union

sentiment has been stimulated among many of the unorganized workers through the efforts of the present officers and active members. For the good of the trade, the workers employed in it, and the Union, all efforts must be directed toward the accomplishment of unionizing all open shops in the Fifth Avenue district. It can be done. But, to accomplish this, we have to put into service our best qualified and most trusted members.

More people were nominated for the various offices than there are offices to fill. Hence, the members will have their chance to choose from those who are placed on the ballot. Our elections always bring a number of members

who come to vote for their new administration. We expect and hope that this time every member of our Union will participate in the voting. Every member should make it his or her business to find out who are the people that deserve their vote. By doing so, our members will safeguard their present conditions of work and will be able to march forward to greater achievements in the future.

In due time, every member of our local will be informed about the place of elections. Members are reminded to see that they are in good standing in the Union and that they bring their union books with them when they appear to vote.

With the N. Y. Dressmakers

By JOSEPH SPIELMAN, Mgr.

Congratulations Dressmakers!

We avail ourselves of this, our first opportunity, to congratulate the many thousands of our new and old members upon the splendid victory which we have achieved during the present general strike. It is the spirit of loyalty, devotion, and true class consciousness, manifested by the great army of dressmakers which made possible the rebuilding of our Union to a strength and influence which had not been anticipated.

It is to early at this time to give a practical analysis of the concrete gains which were achieved as a result of the recent strike. One thing, however, is certain, and that is that we have succeeded in creating in the minds of the employers that there is a Union, strong and bold enough to stand up for the rights of the workers.

Another outstanding, and by far the most predominant, achievement is the creation of the Governor's Commission, which, through the impartial machinery which is now being established, will, within time, stabilize the industry and eradicate the worst evil which has dared to show its head—the sweat shop.

There is no doubt, too, that the members will benefit to a large extent from the re-settlement of prices which they were instructed to follow in every instance.

While the general strike proper is now in process of liquidation it is safe to say that the organization department will continue to function indefinitely. A large number of shops which have returned to work in a very hasty condition—there were days when as many as 7000 and 8000 people were returned—are in need of an overhauling. Similarly, there are a number of shops in the outlying districts which have managed to escape the control of the organization, all of which will be properly taken care of by the organization committee in due time.

We ask our members to be patient as regards the adjustments of complaints, inasmuch as the office staff is not yet fully organized. Within the next few days, the full staff of business agents will be at work and after the shops have been apportioned according to districts, visits will be made and shop meetings will be held.

In the meantime, it must be the duty of every member to continue their loyalty to the organization by observing union conditions in the shops and to conduct himself or herself in such a manner as will reflect credit upon the organization.

Working Cards!

In every instance where the workers were returned to work, each member was provided with a working card—a pink colored ordinary paper slip. One of the most essential requirements of a union shop is that no worker be permitted to remain working in a shop, unless he or she produces an official working card from the office. It matters not what color or condition of one's member book is. No member's book is valid unless it is accompanied by an official working card. The shop chairman must insist upon the enforcement of this rule. It is the basic foundation of a union shop.

Back to Normalcy!

Last Monday, February 24, our office put back into force the old initiation fee rate which is being charged to persons desiring to join our Union. Prior to and during the strike, applicants were accepted as members upon a reduced rate. Those who have not taken advantage of the lower rate will now have to pay the full initiation fee and comply with all other requirements incidental to becoming a full-fledged member of the dressmakers union. An initial payment of \$10.00 must be made by applicants before appearing before the Membership committee.

No Saturday Work Under Any Circumstances!

We want to supplement the warnings of the general manager, appearing in last week's "Justice" regarding the observance of the 5-day, 40 hour week. In this connection, it is important to bear in mind, in view of the understanding reached with the employers regarding the permission to work on certain Saturdays during the season that not until the Union officially designates the four Saturdays upon which work is permitted, no work under any circumstances may be done on Saturdays. The Grievance Committee of our Organization is already at work and violations of this or any other sort will be severely dealt with.

Books Will Be Returned!

The Control Department is making every possible effort to paste stamps on the books upon which payments were made prior to the workers being returned to work and deliver them to each shop by special messenger. We ask the indulgence of our members in those instances where the books have not yet been returned. Similarly, where the workers who have registered with a certain shop are no longer in the employ of that firm, the shop chairmen are requested to return the books of these members to the Control Department on the ground floor, at 139 East 25 Street.

SALES TAX COMPARED TO STRIPPING GOOSE

Palo Alto, Calif.—The sales tax can be compared with the "method of relieving the goose of its feathers," says Jackson H. Ralston, former A. P. of L. attorney and international publicist, in a pamphlet on taxation.

"The public that often submits with no language but a squawk is properly compared to the goose," said Mr. Ralston.

The sales tax may be directly upon the thing sold or paid by the merchant upon the aggregate of sales of particular objects or of everything sold. The form makes little difference. The result, at all events, is that the purchaser pays the tax and that this extent life is made a little more difficult.

"Especially hard is a tax of this nature upon the poor. A tax, let us say of 2 per cent upon all necessities, will be most seriously felt by those whose purse will barely permit the purchase."

PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER NAMES LANGER INQUIRY COMMITTEE

President Schlesinger announced early this week that he had appointed a committee of five persons prominent in the labor movement to inquire into the question of Brother Louis Langer's fitness to hold the post of Secretary-Treasurer of the Joint Board of the New York Cloakmakers' Union.

The committee consists of the following: Adolph Heid, former Judge Jacob Panken, Abraham Sahiplacoff, Joseph Weinberg, and Max Zuckerman.

JUSTICE

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EDITORIALS

The Victorious March Of The International

That was a difficult course which the International followed during the past six or seven months, but likewise a successful one. Those were months of hard and continuous fighting, but also of victory, of one great triumph after another.

If we look back and recall the condition the International was in scarcely a year ago, we really find it hard to believe that such an enormous advance was made in so short a time. A year ago the International was a mere shadow of its former greatness. It resembled a house that has been visited by vandals and hooligans. The Communists had wrecked and destroyed everything they were able to. It required superhuman efforts to preserve the existence of the organization so that it might not perish altogether. Nor did every one believe that these efforts would succeed. But today the International is again large, powerful, and influential, as it used to be in the good old days. And this tremendously big change was effected in the space of a half year. The great change commenced with the cloakmakers' strike in July. That strike marked the beginning of rehabilitation of the International. And it was a good beginning, a brilliant beginning.

The Cloakmakers' Union always was, and still is, the backbone of the International. Accordingly, when the Cloakmakers' Union was disrupted and the cloak industry demoralized, the whole International was disrupted and weak. And when the Cloakmakers' Union became whole again and revived, the International revived, too. The revival of the Cloakmakers' Union, so strikingly demonstrated in the glorious cloak strike of last July, must be recorded as one of the most remarkable events in the American labor movement.

With the victorious strike waged by the Cloakmakers' Union, there commenced a new era in the life of the International, an era of rebirth and success. Following the triumph of the Cloakmakers' Union in New York, there came the victorious strike of the cloak and dressmakers in Cleveland, then the brilliant strike and victory of the cloakmakers in Toronto, and hard upon the heels of the latter, the great and glorious strike of the dressmakers in New York.

Nor is this all. There was a successful strike of embroiderers, tuckers, and hemstitchers in New York. The cloakmakers of Montreal were once more organized and stand ready to embark upon a campaign to ameliorate the conditions of work in the cloak industry of their city. And it is quite certain that they will be as successful in their campaign as were their brothers in Toronto. The victorious strike of the Toronto cloakmakers has not been sufficiently appreciated. The Cloakmakers' Union of Toronto had been virtually destroyed by the Communists. And along with the destruction of the union there were wiped out all the gains which the cloakmakers of Toronto had achieved by so many years of hard fighting. The sweatshop flourished again in the cloak industry of Toronto and the employer's authority in the shop was unlimited, as in the old days of autocracy by the boss. But all this was changed by the recent strike. Once more the Toronto cloakmakers possess a large, powerful, influential union, and union conditions, better and more stringent than ever before, have again been established in the cloak trade of that city. The cloakmakers of Montreal have, therefore, a good example before them, and they are sure to follow it with the greatest measure of success.

Vigorous organizing activity was carried on in Boston, where the plight of the cloakmakers was most deplorable, once more on account of the destructive work of the Communists. To-day the Boston cloakmakers are nearly all of them organized within the fold of the local union of the International, and a new agreement is being negotiated with the manufacturers. Then there are the peaceful victories, the strikes won without striking, so to speak, as in the case of the Chicago cloakmakers, who have renewed their agreement with the employers on very favorable terms, or in that of the New York raincoat makers. This was possible because the International had again become large, powerful, and influential. For, when a union is big and strong, it can very frequently gain its demands without a strike. The Chicago cloakmakers have at present a perfectly organized union. The cloak industry of Chicago may now be said to be one hundred per cent organized.

It is not our intention here to give a full account of the tremendous amount of work which the International accomplished in the brief period under consideration, else we should have to dwell on its activities in Philadelphia, Baltimore, etc.,

etc. We have merely tried to sketch the main lines of the long and victorious march of the International in this short period and to show that it has once again become one of the largest unions in America.

What The Dressmakers Must Bear In Mind Now

The dressmakers have returned to the shops and are working again. They have won their fight for a union and for union conditions in the shops. They have been put in a position to control the dress industry and to rid it of the sweatshop evil. They have been given a chance to make a better living and to enjoy a more secure and more comfortable life. It was a great fight and a glorious victory. But when one gains a victory, one must know how to use it. The fight is continued even after the work-bear in mind.

The fight for a union shop and union conditions does not end with the signing of an agreement between the Union and the employers. The fight is continued even after the workers return to their shops. The workers must always be on guard if they would retain the positions won by means of their strike. They must always defend them against every possible attack. If the positions won are not defended, they are soon lost again. A union shop and union conditions are not kept up by virtue of any paper agreement, but by virtue of the strength of the union which is back of the paper agreement. And the stronger the union, the better it is able to enforce the agreement.

But a union is strong only if its members are conscious and loyal unionists. It is the members who must safeguard the union conditions in the shops. It is they who must be on guard to see that the agreement of the employers with the union is respected.

And one thing more. The real war against the sweatshop in the dress industry has only started. The campaign against the sweatshop can be carried on with greater success now that the dressmakers are a large and powerful union. But we are only deceiving ourselves if we think that the fight is going to be an easy one. The sweatshop has taken firm root in the dress industry and it will require a great deal of effort to eradicate it. But the fight will be the easier the more active the members of the union will be in it.

We hope, therefore, that the dressmakers, who displayed such splendid fighting qualities and such unity in their great strike, will know how to conserve the fruits of their victory.

It's Time To Pay

We call upon the locals to begin to collect from the members the special tax of five dollars a year for a period of two years which the Cleveland Convention voted and which all the locals of the International have since ratified.

It was the decision of the Convention that a special tax of ten dollars, to be paid in the course of two years, be levied upon every member in order to enable the International to rid itself of the debts with which it was saddled by the Communists at the time they were carrying out their pogrom upon the Cloakmakers' Union and the other unions affiliated with the International.

The decision of the Convention has now been approved almost unanimously by the membership, which goes to show that our members fully realized the necessity of the special tax. But fine words butter no parsnips. It is not enough to approve of the tax; we must begin to collect it. The International must be freed as soon as possible from the debts which are weighing it down.

We hope that both the locals and the members will bear this in mind and that the first annual instalment of the special tax will be paid and forwarded to the International as soon as possible.

Fraternal Greetings

"Progress," the official Yiddish organ of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, recently carried the following editorial note on the victorious strike of the New York dressmakers:

"We extend our heartiest congratulations to the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union on its latest victory. The successful strike of the dressmakers in New York was the shortest ever conducted by that union. A few months ago it established order in the cloak industry and now it has done the same in the dress trade. Organized labor rejoices in the great achievements of the International and wishes it further success. The dressmakers' strike was the first important labor battle of the year, and also resulted in the first great victory. The union has survived the trying times which factionalism had brought on, and is now healthy and strong again. It is to be hoped that the members of the International have learned their lesson, and will never again permit adventurers to play with their vital interests. Let the Cloakmakers' Union and the Dressmakers' Union regain their former power and glory. Let them reoccupy their former positions in the industry and in the labor movement. The members of the Amalgamated rejoice in the great progress of their fellow workers of the ladies' garment industries.

"The history of the workers in the tailoring industries, especially during the last few years, has shown that the union spirit is strong among them. The union is always close to the heart of the workers. If it were not so, the present revival would be impossible.

"The fact that the fight of the International was to eliminate the sweatshop conditions which crept back into the trade after irresponsible adventurers had gained control of the union, shows what havoc these false messiahs had wrought. But all this is now happily a thing of the past. The future of the International looks bright."

We appreciate greatly the fraternal sentiments of the edi-

From Time To Time

By DR. B. HOFFMAN (ZIVYON)

I still do not know how many dressmakers there are in New York. All I know now is that there are many, a great many. I saw them during the dress strike both at the mass-picketing demonstration and in the strike halls. There were legions and legions of them.

A statistician who has made a specialty of labor and industrial statistics, and who is well acquainted with the dress industry, has figured out to me that there are from fifty to sixty thousand dressmakers in New York. And according to his calculation, the number is nearer sixty thousand than fifty. He based his estimate not only on the number of dress shops, but far more so on the per capita production of each worker in the dress industry. According to him each dressmaker in New York turns out on the average about eight thousand dollars' worth of dresses a year. And inasmuch as the dress industry of New York aggregates about half a billion dollars a year, it follows that there must be some sixty thousand dressmakers in the city.

This estimate seems to be correct, but I am in no position to tell whether a dressmaker really turns out eight thousand dollars' worth of dresses a year, or more, or less. In this matter I must rely wholly on the calculation of my friend, the statistician. And if his estimate is not quite correct, let people blame him and not me.

But what difference does it make whether there are a few thousand more or fewer? The main thing is that all dressmakers ought to be organized and belong to the Union. And I hope that, as a result of the victorious strike, they will all be organized and belong to the Union, and what a union the dressmakers will then have! And they will have it! The Dressmakers' Union is already large and powerful, and it will grow larger and more powerful still.

The dress manufacturers will surely not lose by the circumstance that here-

after they will have to maintain union conditions in their shops. To be sure, it will cost them a little more, but the extra cost will be borne by the consumers rather than the manufacturers. Moreover, the manufacturers will now have more customers for the dresses they manufacture. The tens of thousands of girls and married women who make the dresses will be in a better position to buy dresses when they earn more. Too, the thousands of men who work in dress shops will be in a better position to buy dresses for their wives and daughters when they earn more.

Decidedly, the dress manufacturers will lose nothing by the fact that union conditions will prevail in their shops. And it ought to be the concern of every responsible dress manufacturer that the sweatshops be stamped out of the dress industry. The competition of the sweatshops is ruinous to the dress trade and an end should be put to it.

Nor am I troubled by the thought that the legitimate dress manufacturers will profit by the Union's campaign against the sweatshops. In the long run the manufacturers also profited, did they not, by the shorter work-day and working week which the Union had won for the workers. Isn't it better for the manufacturer now that he can come to his shop a little later and leave earlier? And certainly he can make much better use of the two days of rest, Saturday and Sunday, on which he keeps his shop closed, than his workers can. For he has the money it takes to have a good time.

All I care for is that the workers' lot shall grow better, and if it happens sometimes that the manufacturers also benefit by the improvement of the workers' lot, I do not begrudge it to them. I am a Socialist and believe that the time will come when the workers will take the shops away from the employers altogether. But for the time being, as long as the shops still belong to the manufactur-

ers, we must see to it that the workers employed in them enjoy as favorable conditions of work as possible. And if, as happens sometimes, the manufacturers also benefit by the improved working conditions of their employees, it is their good luck. Indeed, this is why it is so good to be a manufacturer.

Governor Roosevelt has also come to the conclusion that the best remedy for unemployment is shorter hours of work. This is easy to see. If you deduct one hour from the work-day of a million workers, you have a million hours of work a day available for the unemployed. Try to figure out for yourselves how many workers can be provided with employment when there are a million hours of work available. You will find that a great army of them can. However, in his speech on unemployment Gov. Roosevelt said something which is of far greater importance. He declared, namely, that the eight-hour work-day ought to be established by law; in other words, that it should be forbidden by law to work more than eight hours a day.

Well, as regards an eight-hour day, that is already a long work-day at the present time. To-day the talk ought to be of a six-hour, nay, a five-hour day. However, the idea that there ought to be law prescribing the maximum length of the work-day—i.e., making it illegal to work more than a certain number of hours a day—is absolutely sound. In certain European countries they have long since passed such a law.

Concerning the present unemployment in the country they have also been talking lately in the United States Senate. Senator La Follette of Wisconsin criticized President Hoover and his administration for doing nothing to mitigate the widespread unemployment. Hoover, he said, contented himself with optimistic statements and with assurances that things would get better, whereas, in reality the Hoover administration did not even know the actual state of the present unemployment in the country. Senator Copeland of New York seconded Senator La Follette and in the course of his remarks dwelt upon the great unemployment prevailing in the State of New York.

That the two Senators are right, it

is unnecessary to say. However, as regards Hoover, it cannot be said that he is doing nothing for the unemployed. Didn't he recently go all the way to Florida to catch fish? What more can the unemployed expect of him?

It turns out that the manufacturers fooled President Hoover when they promised him not to reduce wages at this time.

The data compiled up to the month of February show that in quite a number of industries the employers are trying to reduce the wages of their employees.

There is really nothing surprising about this. The employers know quite well that President Hoover won't spank them if they don't keep their word. He won't even send for them and take them to task for it. And as for the workers, they know only too well that they cannot rely on the kindness and pious professions of the employers. They have had plenty of experience in such matters. The workers realize, therefore, that they must be organized and always fight and always watch out for their interests. And it is precisely for this purpose that the wage workers need to have unions. Only, there are still many workers who do not realize it and for this very reason are faring badly.

New laws as to social insurance went into effect recently in France. These are measures providing for sick benefit for wage workers, for death benefit, pensions for the aged and infirm, mothers' pensions, etc.

In the matter of social legislation France used to be quite backward as compared with a number of other European countries. In Germany, in England, in the Scandinavian countries, and in several other European lands, social insurance laws have long since been enacted. There are various reasons why France lagged behind in this respect. However, it is not my purpose here to tell why France was late in enacting social legislation, but rather to tell that at last France has also enacted such laws.

But why have such social insurance measures been inaugurated everywhere save in our America? Isn't the United States a very rich country, and

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torial just quoted. Let us hope that the gains which the International has made for the workers of the ladies' garment industry will indirectly benefit also the workers of the men's clothing industry. When things improve in one branch of the needle trades, it is bound to have a good effect also upon the other branches. Hence the International has always hailed with joy every victory of the Amalgamated in its struggle to improve the lot of its members.

When the Workers Cheat Themselves

The officers of the Union should see to it that the employers respect the terms of their agreement with the Union and that the work in their shops is carried on in accordance with the standards set up by the Union. This, in fact, is the main task of the officials of the Union. It ought not to be the task of the union officials to see that the members of the Union, their own employers, cherish the gains for which they have fought. Unfortunately, however, a very considerable part of the task of the union officials is to do this very thing, that is, to see to it that the members of the Union work in accordance with the conditions laid down by the Union and avail themselves of the gains which they have achieved by hard fighting.

It sounds strange that the members of the Union should hire persons to keep them from cheating themselves. For, not to observe the conditions prescribed by the Union is, in the case of a union worker, tantamount to cheating oneself.

If the workers have fought for week-work in place of piece-work and yet persist in working stealthily by the piece, they are cheating themselves. For, if piece-work were no worse than week-work, they would not have fought to do away with the former.

In like manner, if the workers have fought to abolish overtime work and yet persist in stealthily working overtime, they are also cheating themselves. For by working overtime when such work is forbidden they create competition in the trade from which they will afterwards suffer themselves.

And the same is true of working on Saturday and of working at less than the union scale of prices. In all such cases the worker is cheating himself or herself.

If the union officials, moreover, did not have to devote so

much time and energy to keep the workers from cheating themselves and could instead devote all their time to the task of seeing that the employers observe the terms of their agreement with the Union, the lot of the workers would be much better, and the Union would profit enormously by it.

The question, therefore, is, How can we get the workers to stop cheating themselves?

"A Striking Testimony"

The following editorial from the last issue of *The Nation* speaks for itself:

"A striking testimony to the value of labor organization under intelligent leadership is contained in the news of the past week. On the one hand we have the successful outcome, under the mediation of Lieutenant-Governor Lehman, of the eight-day strike of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in the New York dressmaking industry; on the other, the report of the Federal Council of Churches on conditions in the non-union steel industry. The conditions of settlement in the dress industry offer promise of stabilization, to the advantage at once of the workers, the employers, and the public. The jobbers are to confine their work to members of the contractors' association, who employ only union labor, thus putting an end to the inroads of the sweatshop and strengthening the competitive position of the inside manufacturers, who maintain the prize labor conditions of the industry. Compare the steel industry. For years it fiercely resisted all attempts to get rid of the twelve-hour day, finally yielding in 1923 only after terrific outside pressure. The Federal Council's report covers 155 plants employing more than 248,000 men in all. Of these men, 46.6 per cent are working eight hours a day, 44.6 per cent ten, 2.1 per cent eleven, and 6.7 per cent twelve hours. Only 20.6 per cent enjoy a week of five or five and a half days; 52.5 per cent work six days, and 26.9 per cent seven days a week. Four-fifths of them thus spend six or seven days a week at the furnace or in the mill, where common labor in a majority of cases gets from thirty-five to forty-five cents an hour, say twenty-seven dollars for a six-day sixty-hour week. Contrast these figures with the five-day, forty-hour week of the dressmakers, and the ordinary operators' scale of forty-four dollars."

The Structure of Our Union

By ABRAHAM BAROFF
Ex-Sec'y-Treasurer, I. L. G. W. U.

Grafically the structure of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union may be presented as follows: at the bottom there are the local unions, organized according to craft or, in some cases, according to nationality. These local unions are united into Joint Boards wherever there are several locals in one city or trade and are also united into the International Union which is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

Such a graphic presentation, however, like most of graphs would not give a complete picture of our union, that is, it would show only the framework of the structure. And even in the frame work certain sections and chambers would be missing.

As I said before our locals are mostly unions of crafts in a certain locality. But there are others. Our Italian locals include practically all the crafts of the trade in which their members work. They are organized on the basis of nationality or rather on the basis of language so as to enable them to conduct their business freely, to relieve their members from embarrassment and to avoid any necessity of translators, interpreters, etc. Then there are trade locals, locals which include workers of several crafts of a trade, such as the White Goods Workers Union of New York, Local 62, and the Children's Dress and Housedress Makers Union, Local 91. Also, there are purely industrial locals, organizations embracing workers of all the trades of the garment industry in a certain locality. These are usually found in the smaller markets, where the number of workers in each branch of the trade separately is too small to maintain a local.

According to the constitution of the International two or more local unions of a trade in the same locality are required to form a joint board. The joint boards are composed of delegates from each of the affiliated local unions. They are a combination of all the crafts in the trade or industry. They are industrial unions in so far as they represent the workers of the entire trade or industry although they are based principally on the local craft unions comprising them.

All the Local Unions and Joint Boards are united into the International Union through the General Executive Board and the general officers of the International. The General President, General Secretary-Treasurer and fifteen Vice-Presidents. Because New York is the largest and most important industrial union center in the United States and Canada, nine of the Vice-Presidents are elected from the membership residing in New York. The President, Secretary-Treasurer and the Vice-Presidents are all elected for a term of two years by a majority vote of the delegates to the biennial convention of the International.

The constitution, rules and regulations of the International govern the activity of the locals and Joint Boards and the relation of local unions and Joint Boards with one another as well as with the general executive board. However, subject to certain limitations the locals and Joint Boards have wide powers. Every local has a membership committee whose function it is to pass upon applicants for membership. They have grievance committees who hear cases of members who violated the rules of the local or trade union conduct just as the joint board has grievance committees to hear cases of members who violate

the working rules and standards of the union. These committees have a right to impose fines on guilty members, suspend them and even expel them. Of course, any member who is displeased with the decision of the grievance committee of his local may appeal to the grievance committee of his joint board, to the appeal committee of the General Executive Board and to the supreme authority, the convention of the International.

Every member of the International must be a member of a local union. The local union provides him with a union book. When he pays his dues, stamps showing the amount paid are pasted in the book. The books, stamps as well as other standards supplies are supplied by the general office of the International. The income of the local unions from membership dues is usually divided into two or three parts. One part is kept by the local for its operating expenses another part goes to the Joint Board, where such is in existence, and the third to the general office of the International. The International audits the accounts of the local unions as well as of the Joint Boards.

In addition to the union book every member is supplied with a working card which allows him to work in a union shop. In the shop the members of the union are, in a measure, a world in themselves. There are various crafts, members of various local unions, but they compose one unit for the purpose of selecting from among them a shop chairman or chair-lady. The shop chairman is the representative of the Joint Board in the shop and is also the representative of the workers in dealings with the employer. He carries out instructions of the union and his duty is to report to the union violations of the agreement on the part of the employer and of violations of the union rules on the part of the union members. At the same time he is the representative of the workers in their disputes with the employer and it is his duty to endeavor to settle such disputes.

If or after the shop chairman has failed to adjust a dispute in a shop, it is the duty of the business agent to settle it. The business agents are representatives of the Joint Board, wherever such board is in existence. Most of the business agents are charged with the function of protecting the interests of all the workers of the shops to which they are assigned. He supervises the working conditions in his district, attends to shop meetings, and to disputes that may arise in the shops. If a business agent fails to settle a dispute, he calls upon the manager of the Joint Board or the district manager, or the department manager of course, our agreements provide for settlement of disputes by an impartial chairman or arbitration board whenever the union and the employers fail to come to an agreement regarding a controversy in a factory.

The business agents as well as the managers of the Joint Boards are usually elected by a referendum vote of the entire membership of the local unions, which compose the Joint Board. Any member of the union may be a candidate subject, of course, to the general provisions of the constitution of the International. He has to appear before a committee of examiners, which, if no charges of violation of the constitution are made against the candidate, places him on the ballot.

The enforcement of union conditions and the adjustment of disputes under the agreement are left almost entirely to the joint boards and local unions. However, in regard to the declaration and conduct of general

Trade Union Group Insurance

By MATTHEW WOLL,
President, The Union Labor Life Insurance Company

From the very outset organizations of wage earners have sought, in one way or another, to protect members against the "rainy day" through the accumulation of money to be paid-up on arrival of that "rainy day."

Presumably the earlier groups of wage earners carried on these efforts as an extension of family efforts in the same direction. As soon as man began to develop weapons and tools he began to save something for tomorrow—for a time when there would not be plenty. These savings, in the beginning, were of the most elemental nature and of the most elemental things. The first savings were not of money, but of food. It is a far cry from today back to those first days of saving for time of shortage or trouble and man's savings have run the whole gamut, from the saving of a part of a carcass for the day on which there should be no kill down to the present saving of credit or purchasing power through scientific life insurance.

Going back to our earlier unions it is clear that wage earners thought they could protect each other better in groups than they could as separate families. Tribes developed measures of protection against marauding enemies, grouping families together, for strength, primarily.

Unions developed for group protection against the new conditions of modern industry. Wage earners' families had scant resources against sickness and death. Wages were insufficient to permit ample savings. So the unions established benefit funds—a little from each to make enough to help the needy; that was the principle. It was the best that could be done in the early days. It eased many a heart ache; it solaced many a stricken family.

But the benefit system, good in the beginning, is today as out of date as a horse and buggy on New York's Broadway. The benefit system, as a permanent thing, is unsatisfactory for many reasons. To put them briefly, they are these: The charge against the members is not a scientifically calculated charge. Consequently it is almost never large enough. Whatever the charge may be, moreover, it can be changed at any time. Frequently the amount of the charge is left to the discretion of officers and officers who enforce adequate charges soon become unpopular and cease to remain officers.

Almost always the benefits are too small. With the reduction in the value

strikes they are limited by the constitution of the International. A local union in a trade where there is no joint board must consult the General Executive Board before declaring a strike. The sanction of the general executive board is necessary for any joint board to call any general strike. However, local unions and joint boards have complete autonomy in the course of organization campaigns to call strikes against individual employers and make settlements of such strikes.

The General Executive Board of the International is the central authority in the matter of general strikes and negotiations of general agreements. It determines the general policies of the union in accordance with the conditions of the industry and the requirements of the situation. It represents all the organizations connected with it and guards the interests of the entire membership in the United States and Canada.
(Reprinted from the December issue of the American Federationist)

of the dollar, or rather in its purchasing power, benefits are today smaller than ever. But benefits cannot be large. They cannot be anywhere near adequate unless unions desert the benefit system and adopt insurance of members. If benefits are made substantial the unions come into conflict with state insurance laws; unions do not want even to attempt to do an unlawful business.

The only answer to the whole question is insurance—for unions it is group insurance.

Benefit systems persist because it takes a longer time to give up an institution so deeply rooted in the traditions of our movement. The benefit system was one of the early day devices of unions for succoring members' families in their darkest hours. A sentiment attaches to it. But a finer sentiment can be made to attach to a more serviceable institution. It is foolish to allow a sentiment for an old order of thing to leave us weak in the presence of a new order of things.

Benefit systems, where they are still in operation, are a constant source of trouble. They are encountering all of the troubles that beset unscientific institutions. Their assessments must be raised constantly to meet rising ages and increases of assessments are always resented, as many an officer can testify. All manner of complications result. One international union, in convention, increased its benefits and reduced its assessments! Compared to that effort getting blood from a turnip is an easy matter. Another international union is being beset with lawsuits by members who seek old age benefits to which the union says they are not entitled. Few union operations are today productive of as much woe and uncertainty as the benefit systems that remain in operation. Because they are unscientific they must continue to produce woe as long as they are allowed to exist. There is an endless chase in which assessments never catch up with benefits to be paid out and there are many other troubles, of which litigation is not the least.

Old line, legal reserve life insurance is scientific. Rigid laws enforce the collection of adequate premiums and the safe investment of funds. Protection is absolute. Where labor itself is the owner of the company, as in the case of The Union Labor Life Insurance Company, the entire benefit remains with the labor movement and the individual beneficiary in every case gets the full value of the policy. Union politics, moreover, can never jeopardize the interest of the beneficiary. Always and in every case, the money is there!

Group insurance has been developed as the most economical form of protection for groups, such as unions. Group life insurance for unions is the modern and logical successor to the benefit system.

Group insurance avoids all of the weaknesses of the benefit system, puts science behind the sentiment of group protection of the individual, and leaves nothing to chance.

PICKETING RIGHT UPHELD BY COURT

Baltimore.—Peaceful picketing was upheld by the Maryland Court of Appeals in the case of striking pocket-book workers who were enjoined from picketing by Judge Bond in this city.

The Bond decision held the strike illegal because New York unionists attempted to organize Baltimore workers. The Court of Appeals held that the strike was lawful, even though it originated outside the State.

Labor News from Everywhere

WOMEN WAGE WORKERS FACE MANY PROBLEMS

Kansas City, Mo.—"America will be as strong as her women," said Miss Mary Anderson, director United States Women's Bureau, in an address before the Y. W. C. A. in this city.

"Many women still work 10 hours a day and much more and many work under unsanitary and sometimes dangerous conditions," said Miss Anderson.

"Women are producers not only of economic goods but of future citizens, and whatever lowers the vitality and saps the energies of women limits their ability to bestow a good health heritage upon their children and undermines the race.

"One in every five women in the country is a wage earner and one in every five wage earners is a woman. Essential as it is to safeguard the interests of men wage earners, it is even more imperative to study the problems of women workers because they have been in a weaker position economically than have men, and because in so many instances they have to triple role to enact—that of breadwinner, homemaker, and mother.

EMPLOYER MUST PAY SLANDERED WOMAN

Jackson, Miss.—The State Supreme Court upheld a decision by the Holmes County Circuit Court which awarded \$15,000 damages to a girl who was insulted while employed in a restaurant.

"It was the purpose of the jury in this case," said the Supreme Court, "to say to this employer and to all other employers that they shall not insult their women employees nor look down upon them because they happen to be workers; and they intended to say it in terms loud enough to be well understood. It is to be hoped that it will be well understood henceforward among all who come into this State to do business."

MACHINE BRINGS UNEMPLOYMENT: PRODUCTION BEING "ROBOTIZED"

Washington.—"Many of our factories are producing more than we can consume and unemployment thus goes hand in hand with under-consumption," said Secretary of Labor Davis, in a radio address in this city.

The cabinet member warned of the danger to civilization if the machine controls man.

"We cannot 'robotize' America, because we must remember that the machine does not eat or sleep," he said. "It does nothing but produce. It consumes nothing but a little oil. We must watch out that with our efficiency and modern management we keep control of the machine. If the machine controls us, civilization is gone."

Mr. Davis quoted a long list of industries that have substituted automatic machinery and scientific processes for thousands upon thousands of workers. "Every industry has been modernized," he said. "The railroads today are hauling much more freight than ever, and are doing it with 250,000 less men. Industry is producing 15 per cent more with nearly 1,000,000 fewer workers. Our coal mines are producing more with fewer men.

"New machinery, new efficiency methods, new consolidations have driven out manual laborers and skilled workers. White collar clerks and bookkeepers have been turned into the streets by the thousands.

"Since I became Secretary of Labor, nine years ago, a complete and radical change has come over the economic structure of the country. That means the industrial life of our people."

DEATHS OF AMERICANS PAST 37 ON INCREASE

New York.—The death rate of Americans over 37 have increased, although other civilized countries show an improvement in death rates at every period of life, said Dr. Eugene Lyman Fisk, at a meeting of the Office Executives Club.

Dr. Fisk is medical advisor Life Extension Institute. He intimated that shortened life is the price we must pay for our prosperity, and that industrial expansion and development is sapping our vitality.

FUR INDUSTRY HARMED BY VICIOUS ELEMENTS

New York.—The demoralized fur industry can be re-established by thorough organization, declared Morris Kaufman, general president-secretary International Fur Workers' Union.

"Our industry is the victim of unhealthy speculation, severe unemployment, sweatshops and unscrupulous employers," said Mr. Kaufman. "These, together with Communist activities, make difficult the union's safeguarding policy.

"This situation calls for intelligent effort on the part of all well-meaning elements in the industry to improve industrial conditions."

GREEN MAKES APPEAL TO SOUTHERN UNIONS

Washington.—In an appeal to Southern central bodies, President Green calls for 100 per cent cooperation with the A. F. of L. special committee that is directing the organizing campaign from Birmingham.

"The whole-hearted co-operation of every union and central body in the South is necessary in this campaign," said Mr. Green. The A. F. of L.

the campaign committee and international unions can add support to your local activity by providing the machinery for a whole Southern movement.

"Each labor union is essential to keep in contact so that the will to organize shall not be short-circuited by the failure of any one to act.

"We are entering the campaign confident of success. Have you completed your local organizing group to co-operate in this campaign? To find out what you can do, get in touch

with Paul J. Smith, chairman Southern Organizing Committee, Bankhead-Leland Hotel, Birmingham, Ala."

FEDERAL WORKERS IN LINE

Salt Lake City.—More than 100 federal employees are members of a new local chartered by the National Federation of Federal Employees.

Memphis.—A campaign for school teachers' pensions in this State has been launched by Memphis Teachers' Union.

Social Institute to Hold Two-Day Conference

Prominent Speakers to Discuss Old Age Pension and Unemployment Insurance

Trade unionists, social welfare workers, Socialists, and others interested in social welfare legislation, especially old age pensions and unemployment insurance, will meet to listen to what has been accomplished along those lines and what can be done to relieve distress immediately among unemployed and superannuated workers at the Institute on Social Insurance, at the Rand School, 7 East 15th Street, on Saturday and Sunday, March 1 and 2.

Originally planned for last weekend, the date of the institute, which is being arranged under the joint auspices of the Rand School of Social Science and the New York City Committee of the Socialist Party, was shifted to March 1 and 2 in order to make it possible for a number of experts in the field of social insurance to be present.

The opening session Saturday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, will witness a discussion of the unemployment problem, its extent and the means that can be taken to meet it. Dr. Harry W. Laidler, noted Socialist writer and

author, and executive secretary of the League for Industrial Democracy, will open the discussion, following an address by B. C. Vladeck, former Socialist alderman and manager of the Jewish Daily Forward, who, as chairman, will outline the plans for the Institute and survey the work done by Socialists to bring about social insurance measures.

During the Saturday afternoon session, Abraham Beckerman, former Socialist alderman, and in charge of the unemployment insurance plan in the clothing workers industry, will discuss the means that employers and employees can take jointly to alleviate distress resulting from unemployment in particular industries. Other phases of unemployment, peculiar to certain trades and distinguishable from general depressions affecting all workers, will be taken up during the session.

At the second session Saturday afternoon, scheduled for 4 o'clock, Henry Rosner, who has just completed an exhaustive survey of employment exchanges, public and private, here and abroad, for the Municipal Research Committee of the Socialist Party, will discuss "Unemployment and Employment Exchanges." It is expected that the discussion which will be provoked by the various speakers will consume the balance of the Saturday session, of which Charles Solomon will be the chairman.

The Institute will resume Sunday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, and from 2 o'clock until 6 o'clock old age pensions, invalidity and health insurance, and maternity insurance will be taken up. Louis Waldman, chairman of the Public Affairs Committee of the Socialist Party, and author of a social insurance bill, introduced in the Assembly while a member of the Legislature, will be a speaker. Dr. Evelyn Magnusson, American representative of the International Labor Office, of Washington, D. C., Dr. A. Epstein, secretary of the American Association for Old Age Security and considered one of the best authorities on the subject in the nation, Dr. Evelyn Burns, of Columbia University, and others will appear during the Sunday sessions. Algernon Lee, of the Rand School, will preside.

Admission to the Institute will be by ticket, which can be obtained without charge from the office of the Rand School or from the headquarters of the Socialist Party, 7 East 15th Street. Discussions will take place after each session, and opponents of the measures advocated during the session will have an opportunity to be heard. Representatives of organizations known to be opposed to social insurance legislation are receiving invitations to attend.

Socialist Party branches have been asked to elect four delegates each to the Institute, to insure representation from every Socialist Party branch in the city. Trade unions and social welfare agencies are invited to be represented.

From Time To Time

(Continued from Page 5)

can't it better afford than any other country to bear the cost that social insurance entails?

Moreover, the material condition of the French workers is not any worse than that of the American workers. It is a fact, that the working people of France have no desire to emigrate to America and actually do not come here. And why should they? There is no unemployment now in France, while in this country there is. Hence it cannot be said that the wage workers of France stand in greater need of social insurance than those of America.

But there is one explanation why measures so beneficial to labor have been inaugurated in France and not in the United States: The French Chamber of Deputies contains over a hundred Socialist members and the government in power, even if it happens to be a conservative one, has to reckon with them. And it was the Socialists who demanded the enactment of the social insurance measures. In the American Congress and the various State Legislatures, on the other hand, there are no Socialists. The American wage workers are not organized politically and do not yet realize the value of independent political action on the part of labor, hence their interests are overlooked by our lawmakers. As a result we witness this anomalous state of affairs: America, which is the richest country in the world, and which is so far advanced industrially, has practically no labor laws.

What is the matter with the Com-

munist of Toronto? They said that they were going to capture the cloak strike in that city and turn it into a Communist revolution. How come, then, that they did not keep their word?

The Communists here in New York kept on telling us the most astounding things about the Communists of Toronto. They told us not only that Toronto was a Communist stronghold, but that the entire labor movement of that city was in the hands of the Communists. To be sure, we were not taken in by what our New York Communists were telling us. We knew them. And we also knew a thing or two about Toronto. We knew that the Communists there did not have the labor movement in their hands, but under foot. In plain language, they had trampled upon the labor movement of that city and crushed the life out of it. We knew that it was the Communists who had wrecked the Cloakmakers' Union of Toronto and made it possible for the sweatshop to blossom forth again in that city as in the "good" old days.

And what we knew about Toronto is precisely the explanation why the Communists there did not keep their word and did not capture the recent cloak strike in that city. They were even afraid to show their faces. For by this time the cloakmakers, in common parlance, "have got their number." And thus it is that in Toronto, too, we now have a Cloakmakers' Union that is free from Communists. They were swept out along with the sweatshops and the scab-shops. This was really a clean job.

Two Weeks In Local 10

By SAMUEL PERLMUTTER, Mgr.

Over 1700 Cutters Returned to Work In Settled Shops.

The sum total of the general strike conducted in the dress industry during the past three weeks can be outlined as follows:

About 25,000 workers are today holding membership cards within the various locals comprising the Dress-makers' Union, as compared with barely a few thousand prior to the declaration of the general strike. At the same time there are still hundreds of workers joining the ranks of our International as a result of the effective organization campaign still being conducted by the Joint Board. It may also be said at this time, to the surprise of a good many, that the results of this general strike by no means compare unfavorably with the success attained in the last cloak and suit strike.

Many members of our organization were of the impression that owing to the many nationalities of the workers engaged in this industry, most of whom are descendants of Spanish-Italian and Porto-Rican ancestry, and who are known to be but slightly, if at all, acquainted with the importance of organization, that this general strike would prove a dismal failure. As stated above, however, all of those who entertained this impression were entirely amazed to see the warm response of these tens of thousands of men, women and girls in particular.

The writer of these lines personally had the pleasure of visiting every hall in which the strikers assembled during the strike, and was greatly amazed to witness the enthusiasm displayed during the periods when they were addressed by speakers who discussed the strike situation. But what was even more remarkable was to observe the strict discipline that prevailed in the halls. As an instance of this, we found in checking up the settled shops to which the workers returned that hardly any workers returned to work without securing a working card.

Credit for this perfect condition which existed in the halls is largely due to the Hall Chairmen and their assistants assigned to the respective halls. Every hall was represented by a member of Local 10, and the activities of our members in the various halls were very noticeable.

Additional 1,200 Shops Unionized

Another great achievement by way of comparison is that prior to the general strike, there were barely 400 shops under the control of the Union and most of them were members of the contractors' association, with just a handful of inside manufacturers.

As a result of the strike, however, the inside manufacturers formed a new association, and at the time of the declaration of the strike they had succeeded in enrolling about 25 members. At this time, the Affiliated Dress Association counts a membership of over 200, the majority of which consists of large shops, some of which employ as many as 150 workers and more. That these are the most responsible and legitimate shops, goes without saying, and it is these types of shops that can very well be compared to those under the supervision of the Industrial Council Department of the Joint Board, where conditions are more closely observed and in which the most responsible employers are involved. Anyone who has any knowledge of the situation in the dress industry can estimate the value of this accomplishment.

As for the Contractors' Association, whereas prior to the strike there were only about 350 members, as the general strike progressed their membership increased by leaps and bounds and at this time, they count a membership of over a thousand, all of which are under the control of the Union. In addition to the Association shops who were forced to toe the mark and accept Union conditions, there are many others who signed individual agreements with the Union.

Another very important factor in the dress industry is the Jobbers' Association about which a few words must be said. It is significant that during the negotiations the Jobbers' Association assumed a very stubborn attitude towards the demands of the Union, particularly that part of the agreement pertaining to the establishment of an impartial machinery, and the setting up of a Commission whose function is to survey the entire industry and check up on non-union production, as well as the establishment of other means and methods by which to curtail the freedom of the Jobbers to free lance, such as the instituting of a staff of accountants to examine the books of the Jobbers in order to ascertain where their merchandise is manufactured.

The Jobbers' Association in the past has never shown as much hostility towards the Union as during the last general strike, and this is due to the fact that in the past, the Jobbers' Association apparently did not take the matter very seriously. History shows that in the various strikes and in the signing of pacts, violations amongst the Jobbers started before the ink upon which the agreements were signed, was dry. This time, however, with the intercession of Governor

Roosevelt, and Lieutenant Governor, Herbert H. Lehman, in conjunction with the limitations put upon them by the proposed machinery, they began to realize that it means living up to the provisions as contained in the agreement, and it is therefore to be expected that the Jobbers should act the way they did. Time and again, not only during the course of the conferences, but even after the agreement had finally been signed in City Hall in the presence of the Acting Mayor, John McKee, the Lieutenant Governor, Herbert H. Lehman, and the press, they attempted to squirm out of it, and it was due to the remarkable tact, diplomacy and executive capacity of Lieutenant Governor Lehman that the Jobbers were finally made to understand that they would have to live up to the agreement and all its ramifications.

The Problem of Apprentices

As far as Local 10 is concerned at this time, there are approximately 1,700 cutters who returned to work. In this strike, however, with the acceptance of additional hundreds of members, appeared a new problem, and that is the "Apprentices." Quite a few hundred boys who had come out on strike are not full fledged mechanics. In going over the records, it was found that most of these boys received wages ranging from \$20.00 to \$40.00 a week. It therefore became necessary to cope with this situation immediately, and as a result, before retraining these cutters to work, sliding scales had been arranged and adjustments were made for immediate increases ranging from \$5.00 to \$10.00 and sometimes \$15.00 where it was evident that the boys in question were full fledged mechanics.

Understandings had also been reached in these cases that those boys who are still under scale should be elevated to the scale; some cases within six months and some within a year.

In connection with this it also became important to assign additional controller in the locals to visit the dress shops for two purposes; first to learn whether the raises as adjusted with the firms were given, and also to follow up the cutters who made payments on application, to see that they make their final payments and take out their books.

Local 10 Sends Out Committee of One Hundred to Police Garment Center On Washington's Birthday

About one hundred cutters, active members of Local 10, were on the job Saturday morning, Washington's Birthday, as early as 6:00 A. M. policing the garment center south of 42nd Street to 34th Street and west of Broadway to 9th Avenue.

The investigation culminated in the discovery of over a hundred cutters who were found going to work or in the shop. It is worthy of note that

the majority of the cutters spied by the majority of the cutters spied by most of them come from the recently unionized shops.

All of these violators are being summoned before the Executive Board and action will be taken against them and warnings served them that if they want to retain their membership within the local they will have to observe the conditions as prescribed by our Union.

Conditions in the Cloak Trade

As far as the cloak trade is concerned, it may be said that while the vast majority of the men are working, yet it is by no means what it should be. The better line houses have laid off their men. This is attributed to the fact that they are now working on what is known as the "Second Line" and a week or two of dullness is to be expected as it requires this time to complete their models. The cheaper line houses are now getting busy, and a good many are working overtime. The Annual Entertainment and Ball of Local 10 Will be Held March 29.

The ball committee has now completed all its arrangements preparatory to the annual entertainment and ball of Local 10, which is to take place on Saturday, March 29, 1930, at the Level Club. A letter was sent to the entire membership calling their attention to the glorious evening in store for them.

Our annual entertainments of the past, especially the past two years, have been a topic of discussion among the cutters and doers who availed themselves of this enjoyment. This time an extraordinary program has been arranged. Brother David Fruhling, the secretary of the Ball Committee, has promised to put something over this time that the cutters have never had in the past, and it therefore behooves each and every cutter attend this affair, and come on time in order to secure convenient seats. Together with the letter, one ticket was mailed to each member. It must be remembered that the regular price of the ticket is \$1.00 in advance, and \$1.50 at the door. All cutters are therefore urged to come down to the office of Local 10, to make additional purchases. The Level Club is widely known for its ball room entertainment, and great seating capacity.

Step By Step

"Step by step the longest march
Can be won; can be won.
Single stones will form an arch
One by one, one by one."

"And by union, what we will
Can be all accomplished still.
Drops of water turn a mill.
Single none, singly none."

Attention, Members of Local 10!

The Next Regular and Special Meeting

will be held

Monday, March 10, 1930

at

ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place

**All Cutters Are Urged to Attend
This Meeting Without Fail.**

A fine of \$1 for non-attendance will be strictly enforced.

Our Annual Entertainment and Ball

will be held on

Saturday, March 29, 1930

at the **LEVEL CLUB, 253 West 73rd Street**

**All Cutters Are Urged to Take Advantage of This
Glorious Entertainment Provided for This Occasion
And Bring Your Friends With You.**

**All Advance Sale of Tickets \$1.00
Tickets at the Door \$1.50**